

REMARKS

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to recite a reference frame for use in a lithographic apparatus. Support for this Amendment may be found in Figure 1, and at least in paragraph [0044]. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement as set forth in MPEP §803 have not been satisfied. MPEP §803 states that “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” (Emphasis added.)

Independent claim 1 recites a lithographic apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a reference frame that comprises a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion of greater than about  $2.9 \times 10^{-6}/K$ . Independent claim 20, as amended, recites a reference frame for use in a lithographic apparatus that comprises a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion of greater than about  $2.9 \times 10^{-6}/K$ . Independent claim 23 recites a device manufacturing method that includes, *inter alia*, providing a reference frame that comprises a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion of greater than about  $2.9 \times 10^{-6}/K$ . Therefore, regardless of which group Applicants elect, the search and examination of claims 1, 20, and 23 requires the search and examination for a reference frame that comprises a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion of greater than about  $2.9 \times 10^{-6}/K$ .

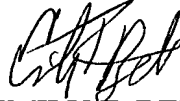
As the search and examination of independent claims 1 and 23 encompasses the search and examination of independent claim 20, and vice versa, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement between Groups I and II has not been established. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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